



Hello. My name is Yvette Meunier and I live at 35 Prospect St. in Topsham. I am also the Chair of Topsham's Energy Committee.

I would like to respond to some of the statements that will be made in the transportation presentation.

1. A statement was made that drivers are worried about batteries suddenly dying. Where is the data showing these buses suddenly die? To be fair any bus out there could suddenly become disabled for a variety of reasons and the district already has procedures in place to cover those incidents.
2. Due to extensive safety standards, school bus fires are very rare. Bus fires accounted for only 1% of all vehicle fires in 2021, none of which involved electric school buses. And zero bus-fire-related deaths were reported to the National Fire Incident Reporting System according to the most recent tracking.
3. Battery range will drop in winter months and you will need to consider the range of the battery relative to your bus routes. 9,000 Mainers and 14 school districts have done these calculations and have purchased EVs, refuting the idea that these are not for Maine winters. Further, if we are going to talk about having to take additional measures to fend off cold temperatures with either with additional heaters or bigger batteries let's not ignore the fact that those diesel buses are out there hooked up to electricity.
4. Warranty concerns, who hasn't experienced a recall with a vehicle? I have spoken with several districts myself and the Lion buses out of Canada are the ones drawing the headlines. There are plenty of other models that can be bought and serviced at local dealers in Augusta to Kennebunk. Further, these dealerships offer training for technicians. Just like any new, there will be a learning curve that can be overcome.
5. Indoor storage is a want, not a need when it comes to these buses. None of the 14 districts receiving these buses have bus barns.
6. Lastly, the schools I spoke with are looking at savings.
7. The company estimates that the bus cost a low \$0.25 per mile to operate. This is compared to a diesel at \$0.70." Another said "Cutting fuel by 50% and maintenance by 50% or more."

We are missing the point by dwelling on hypotheticals, extremely rare cases, and the most extraneous circumstances. We have before us an opportunity to make a significant contribution to the future of our young people

If yesterday's storm wasn't et Page 1 / 2 knowledge how p I + to address you in what is arguably the most sustainable and resilient building in Sagadahoc County. MSAD 75's leadership took a